



**For Release: Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

**21-405-NEW**

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 BLSinfoNY@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

Media contact: (646) 264-3620

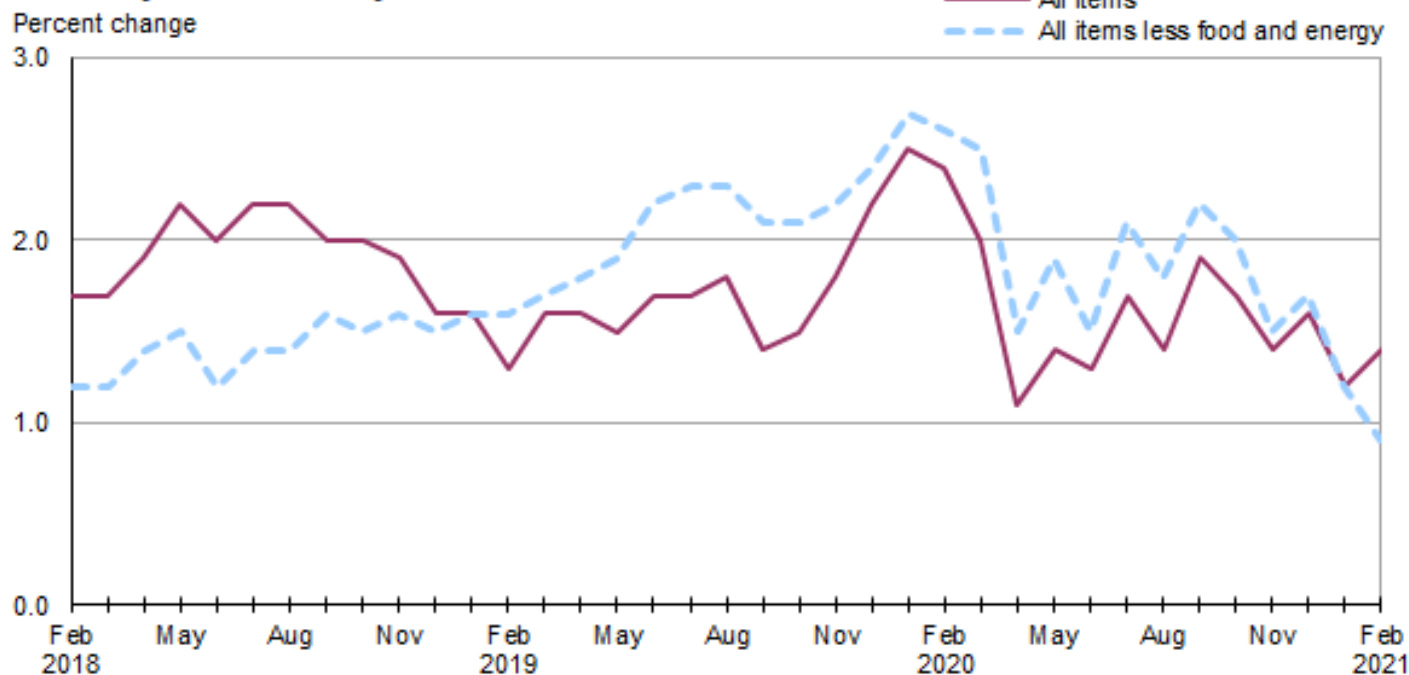
## Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – February 2021

### Area prices up 0.3 percent over the month and 1.4 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Newark-Jersey City area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.3 percent in February, following a 0.4-percent increase in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that energy prices drove the increase. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U rose 1.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices rose 3.7 percent, shelter prices, 0.7 percent, and energy prices, 4.0 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.9 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, February 2018–February 2021**



## Food

The food index edged up 0.1 percent in February, after remaining flat in January. Prices for food away from home rose 0.3 percent. At-home food prices were unchanged. Among the six grocery indexes, declines in three indexes (fruits and vegetables; dairy and related products; and meats, poultry, fish, and eggs) were offset by increases in the remaining three indexes.

Over the year, the food index was up 3.7 percent, with rising prices for both food away from home (4.9 percent) and for food at home (2.6 percent).

## Energy

The energy index rose 4.5 percent in February, following a 3.7-percent increase in January. Gasoline prices were up 6.8 percent. Household energy prices rose 3.1 percent, with higher prices for electricity (2.7 percent) and natural gas (3.0 percent).

From February 2020 to February 2021, energy prices increased 4.0 percent, with a rise in electricity prices (8.6 percent) and in natural gas prices (7.7 percent), partially offset by a decline in gasoline prices (-0.2 percent).

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent in February, following a 0.3-percent increase in January. Shelter prices rose 0.2 percent, new and used motor vehicles increased 1.2 percent, and motor vehicle insurance rose 0.9 percent. Declines for apparel (-0.6 percent), recreation (-0.3 percent), and other goods and services (-0.4 percent) partially offset the increases.

For the year ended in February 2021, the index for all items less food and energy increased 0.9 percent—the smallest over-the-year increase since December 2010. Shelter prices rose 0.7 percent, with a 1.2-percent increase in owners' equivalent rent. Residential rent rose 0.8 percent, the smallest over-the-year increase recorded since February 1958. Other increases included new and used motor vehicles (6.3 percent), household furnishings and operations (6.1 percent), and education and communication (1.9 percent).

**Table A. New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.6	2.5	0.4	1.4	0.5	1.6	0.8	2.5	0.4	1.2
February.....	0.3	2.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.3	1.4
March.....	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.7	0.3	1.6	-0.2	2.0		
April.....	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	-0.5	1.1		
May.....	0.1	1.8	0.4	2.2	0.2	1.5	0.5	1.4		
June.....	0.2	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.3	1.7	0.1	1.3		
July.....	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.7	0.5	1.7		
August.....	0.2	1.7	0.1	2.2	0.2	1.8	-0.1	1.4		
September.....	0.5	2.1	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.4	1.9		
October.....	-0.2	1.8	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.5	-0.2	1.7		
November.....	-0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.9	0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.4		
December.....	0.1	1.6	-0.2	1.6	0.1	2.2	0.4	1.6		

## CPI-W

In February, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 280.994, up 0.4 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.7 percent over the year.

**The March 2021 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on February 2021 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in February was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at

<https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater

volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE:Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Core Based Statistical Area includes Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	284.350	285.525	286.474	1.4	0.7	0.3
All items (1967=100) .....	822.015	825.413	828.156			
Food and beverages .....	283.888	283.663	284.117	3.7	0.1	0.2
Food .....	283.892	283.787	284.173	3.7	0.1	0.1
Food at home .....	268.160	267.564	267.500	2.6	-0.2	0.0
Cereals and bakery products .....	312.008	305.978	309.918	1.9	-0.7	1.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	263.533	263.792	262.388	1.9	-0.4	-0.5
Dairy and related products .....	239.769	242.657	238.089	3.9	-0.7	-1.9
Fruits and vegetables .....	346.208	343.461	339.875	2.2	-1.8	-1.0
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	264.311	262.536	269.623	4.6	2.0	2.7
Other food at home .....	233.564	234.763	235.309	2.8	0.7	0.2
Food away from home .....	313.944	314.528	315.561	4.9	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	279.033	277.184	278.558	3.4	-0.2	0.5
Housing .....	309.952	310.692	311.974	1.6	0.7	0.4
Shelter .....	392.874	392.787	393.648	0.7	0.2	0.2
Rent of primary residence .....	410.110	409.744	409.559	0.8	-0.1	0.0
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2) .....	402.036	402.401	402.698	1.2	0.2	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) .....	401.538	401.903	402.200	1.2	0.2	0.1
Fuels and utilities .....	199.732	202.932	208.407	6.5	4.3	2.7
Household energy .....	189.054	192.568	198.628	6.8	5.1	3.1
Energy services .....	185.024	187.782	193.004	8.3	4.3	2.8
Electricity .....	187.346	189.182	194.225	8.6	3.7	2.7
Utility (piped) gas service .....	167.567	171.990	177.211	7.7	5.8	3.0
Household furnishings and operations .....	113.575	115.465	115.554	6.1	1.7	0.1
Apparel .....	113.195	127.102	126.288	-0.8	11.6	-0.6
Transportation .....	215.559	218.246	221.064	-0.3	2.6	1.3
Private transportation .....	206.238	209.138	213.608	2.8	3.6	2.1
New and used motor vehicles(3) .....	95.119	94.686	95.783	6.3	0.7	1.2
New vehicles(1) .....	208.742	210.395	211.041	1.8	1.1	0.3
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	291.581	288.705	289.542	8.8	-0.7	0.3
Motor fuel .....	181.789	194.216	207.391	-0.3	14.1	6.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	180.864	193.362	206.574	-0.2	14.2	6.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....	178.335	191.300	204.726	-0.2	14.8	7.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....	196.519	205.444	217.639	-0.6	10.7	5.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....	201.334	210.453	222.091	-0.1	10.3	5.5
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	745.257	755.633	762.383	-3.6	2.3	0.9
Medical care .....	536.246	534.632	535.385	1.0	-0.2	0.1
Recreation(3) .....	133.042	130.375	130.026	0.5	-2.3	-0.3
Education and communication(3) .....	149.973	150.705	150.812	1.9	0.6	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) .....	1,271.176	1,272.387	1,272.387	1.3	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services .....	448.673	437.829	435.976	-1.2	-2.8	-0.4

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	284.350	285.525	286.474	1.4	0.7	0.3
Commodities .....	191.140	194.743	195.862	2.0	2.5	0.6
Commodities less food and beverages .....	137.435	142.543	143.892	0.6	4.7	0.9
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	169.643	179.311	181.498	-0.9	7.0	1.2
Durables .....	94.709	95.228	95.693	3.2	1.0	0.5
Services .....	362.182	361.575	362.424	1.1	0.1	0.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	273.426	274.717	275.672	1.4	0.8	0.3
All items less shelter .....	241.280	242.956	243.940	1.8	1.1	0.4
Commodities less food .....	142.536	147.467	148.825	0.8	4.4	0.9
Nondurables .....	227.376	232.418	233.802	1.7	2.8	0.6
Nondurables less food .....	176.162	185.172	187.313	-0.5	6.3	1.2
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	340.205	339.053	339.904	1.6	-0.1	0.3
Services less medical care services .....	346.997	346.359	347.179	1.0	0.1	0.2
Energy .....	189.109	196.015	204.830	4.0	8.3	4.5
All items less energy .....	295.428	296.139	296.442	1.2	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy .....	299.496	300.345	300.637	0.9	0.4	0.1

**Footnotes**

- (1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.